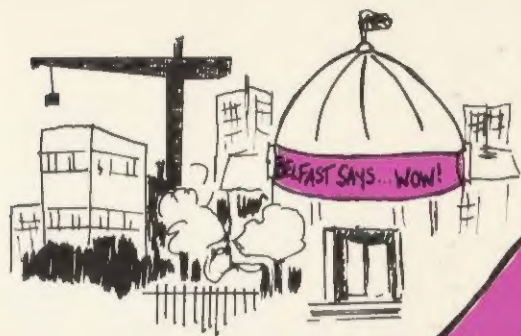


SAPPH[♀]W[♀]OMAN



and the
Greater
Belfast Dykes

SAPPHOWOMAN

and the

Greater Belfast Dykes

First Published by Meadhbh, Belfast 1989.

Printed by Sheffield Women's Printing Co-op (TU) Ltd. (0742) 753180

With many thanks to Judith, Fran and Marie of Meadhb Publishing for their boundless energy, enthusiasm and criticism - you've given me much more than just a book! Suzie for the invaluable help and advice. My favourite sister for all the inspiration and support. Claire for letting me moan in her good ear! All the wonderful women of Belfast! And finally for my mother, love ya! GMK.

Copyright Gaye Mae Kincaid 1989.
All rights reserved.

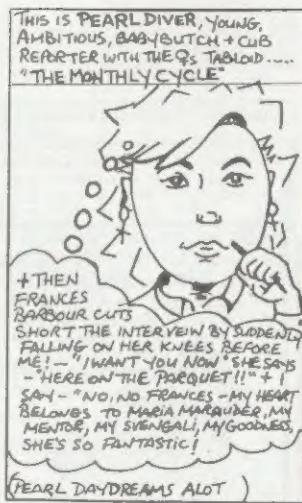
ISBN 1 872139 01 9

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

SAPHO♀WOMAN



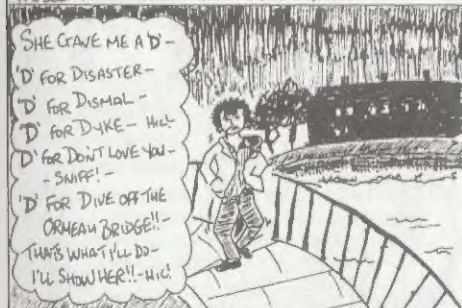
AND INTRODUCING THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 'MONTHLY CYCLE' COLLECTIVE... MEET VIOLA NICEPOSIE - HUMANITARIAN, VEGETARIAN, PACIFIST + NOT QUITE RADICAL FEMINIST!





SAPHPOWOMAN MEETS "DESPERATE DYKE!"

LATE ON A SUMMER EVENING, + ALL THE PUBS HAVE CLOSED - WHEN, DRUNKENLY + STAGGERING UP THE ORMEAU RD, WE SEE A WOE BEGONE, DESPERATE DYKE -

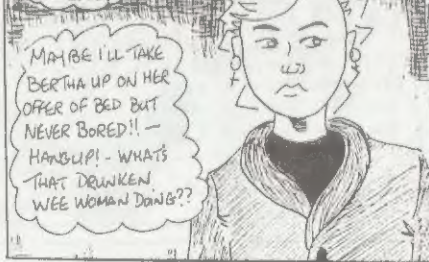


SHE GAVE ME A 'D' -
'D' FOR DISASTER -
'D' FOR DISMAL -
'D' FOR DYKE - HIC!
'D' FOR DON'T LOVE YOU -
- SNIFF! -
'D' FOR DIVE OFF THE
ORMEAU BRIDGE!! -
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO -
I'LL SHOW HER!! - HIC!

- SUFFERING FROM THE DOUBLE BODY BLOW OF FAILING
HER END OF TERM EXAMS + UNREQUESTED LOVE FOR HER TUTOR!!

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER WEE DEPRESSED, DRUNK DYKE STAGGERS
DOWN THE ORMEAU ROAD

MM, DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE ME. SNIFF! - (TAPING FINGERS
TO THE BONE FORMER - + NOTHING - NOT EVEN AN
XMAS SNUG UNDER THE MISTLE TOE - CHRISTMAS IS
THE ULTIMATE CAPITALIST CASH IN ON
COLLECTIVE CHRISTIANITY!
SHE SAID!



MAYBE I'LL TAKE
BERTHA UP ON HER
OFFER OF BED BUT
NEVER BORED!! -
HAND UP! - WHAT'S
THAT DRUNKEN
WEE WOMAN DOING??



HOLY SHIT! - SHE'S THROWING
HERSELF OFF THE ORMEAU BRIDGE!
- HOW UNHYGENIC! - THIS IS A JOB
FOR SAPHPOWOMAN!!

HIC!
SNIFF!!

A MICROSEC. LATER, SAPHPOWOMAN HURTLES
THROUGH THE BALMY BELFAST SKIES, INTENT ON
SAVING THE DISTRAUGHT DYKE IN MID-PLUMMET!!



GOTCHA!!

GEROFF! I
WANNADIE!!
MY TUTOR
DOESN'T LOVE ME!
WAAH!!



STOP STRUGGLING! -
MY CAPES CAUGHT
IN MY KNICKERS!!
- WATCHOUT!
WE'RE GOING
DOWN!!

DROP ME!
DROPE ME! 'D'
FOR DROP!!

FOR SEVERAL SECONDS THEY SWIRL + SWOOP OVER
THE WHIFFY WATERS OF THE LAGAN - UNTIL -
SUDDENLY A TRANQUIL MOMENT -



WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, DOESN'T LAST LONG.....!!



ANOTHER CATASTROPHE AVERTED, OUR
HEROINE, ONCE MORE, TAKES TO THE SKIES.

JEEZ - THIS RIVERS POGGIN'



WE CAN ALL REST ASSURED THAT WHEREVER THERE'S
A DYKE IN DISTRESS, A FEMINIST IN A FLURRY, A
WOMAN IN WORRY + A LESBIAN IN DEEP SHIT -
SAPPHOWOMAN - WILL BE THERE!!!

FRIG ME! IT'S A BIT SHALLOW, INNIT?

WHY DO I ALWAYS GET
THE LOOPERS?

I NEVER GET THE INTERNATIONAL
DIAMOND THIEVES OR THE MAD
SCIENTISTS TRYING TO CONQUER
THE WORLD!!



IF IT WASN'T FOR THATCHERITE BRITAIN
THERE'D BE A PLACE FOR YOU!!



NO NEED TO BE NASTY, - JUST COS YOU
RUINED YOUR FANCY DRESS CASTING!
WELL, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE
'FILMS' BEFORE 'LIGHTS OUT'. CHEERO!

SO, OUR YOUNG + NOW SUBSIDISED STUDENT
STUMBLES HOMEWARD - UNAWARE OF HER
BRUSH WITH THE SAPPHIC SUPERPOWER!!!

..... SAPPHOWOMAN WILL BE THERE!!



..... SAPPHOWOMAN WILL BE THERE!!!

WELL, WHERE IS SHE? SHE'S MISSED HER
BLEEDIN' CUE AGAIN. GOD, THESE AMATEURS!!

MEANWHILE, IN ORMEAU PARK...



OH FOR GOODNESS SAKE - SOMEBODY HELP HER
DOWN!! - FOR A SUPERHEROINE SHE CAN BE
SUCH A DISAPPOINTMENT SOMETIMES!

SAPPH♀W♀MAN! ... IN ...

"RECLAIM THE NIGHT!"

MARIA MARAUDER HAS ORGANISED A PROTEST MARCH AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE, ABUSE + GENERAL ANNOYANCE TOWARDS WOMEN DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS!

THE MARCHERS ASSEMBLE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY THEN ...



... FOREVER ONWARD!!

ALRIGHT WIMMIN! LET'S ROLL!!



PEARL SIDLES UP TO M.M.

GOSH MM - IT'S A GREAT TURNOUT! - I'LL GET LOTS OF PHOTOS FOR THE MONTHLY CYCLE!! - BUT WHO'S THAT??



AND SO THEY FINALLY ARRIVE BEFORE THE LOFTY PORTALS OF THE CITY HALL - JUST AS TROUBLE LOOMS OVER THE HORIZONS IN THE FORM OF THE LOCAL R.U.C.



SARGE BACON WARILY APPROACHES HIS OLD ADVERSARY, MARIA MARAUDER.

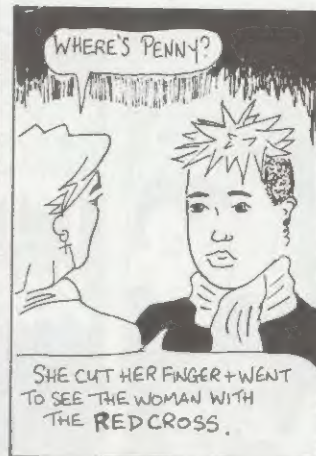
I'LL, WELL - IF IT ISN'T MISS MARAUDER

DON'T YOU MISS ME!

BELIEVE ME I DON'T!

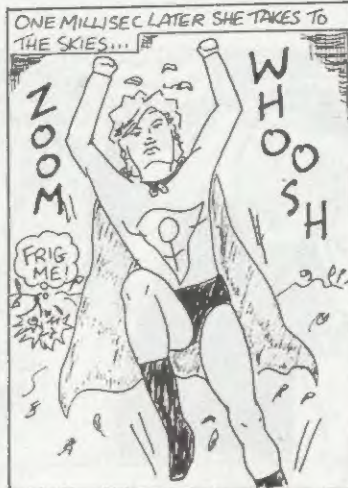
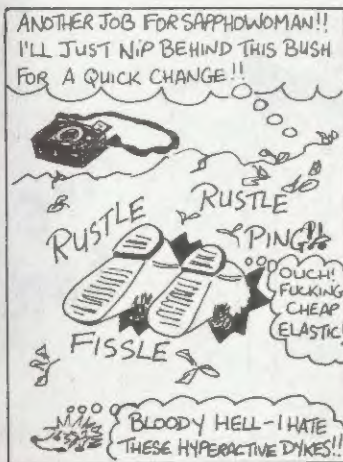
WATCHA WANT BACON! THIS MARCH IS LEGAL!!!

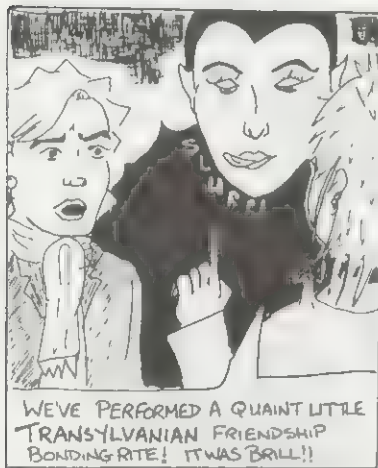






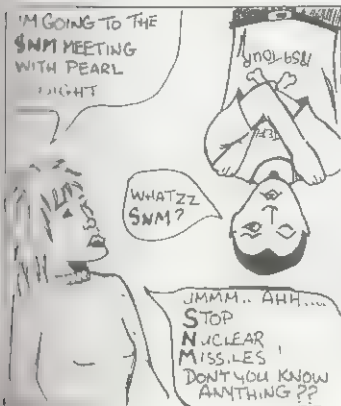
S
U
D
D
E
N
L
Y...

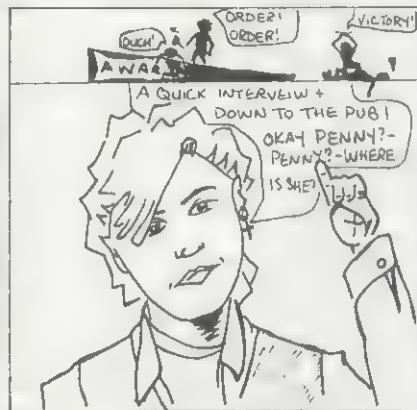


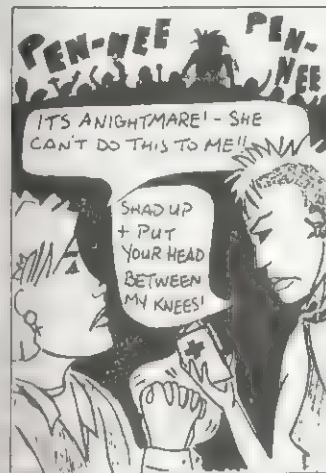


THE
END...

THE GREAT S+M DEBATE!

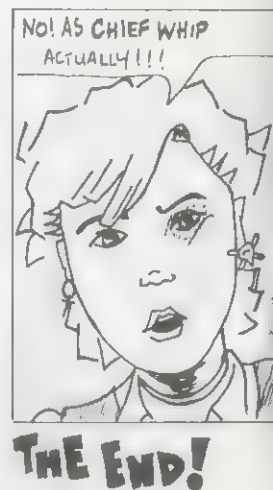
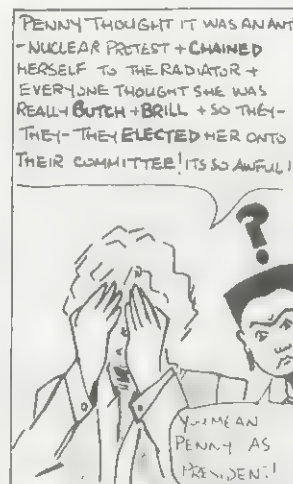






**T
H
E
N
E
X
T
D
A
Y...**





MOTHERS MANIC

DOES YOUR
MOTHER HAVE
TROUBLE
ACCEPTING
YOUR
SEXUALITY?

IS SHE THE
ULTIMATE
EMOTIONAL
GUILT-
TRIPPER?



DOES SHE RESORT TO VODOO TO BREAK UP
YOU + YOUR LOVER?



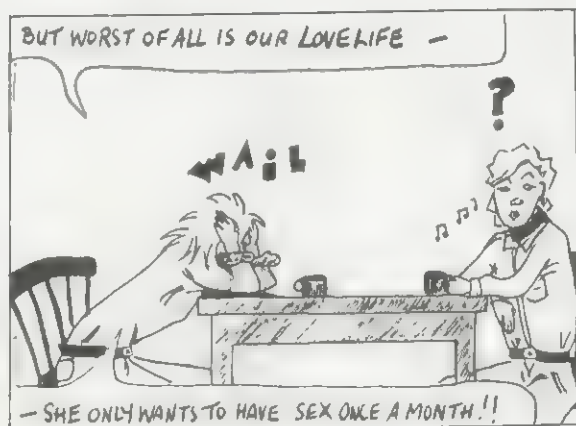
MAYBE SHE OVER-REACTS TO GAY HEALTH ISSUES?!!



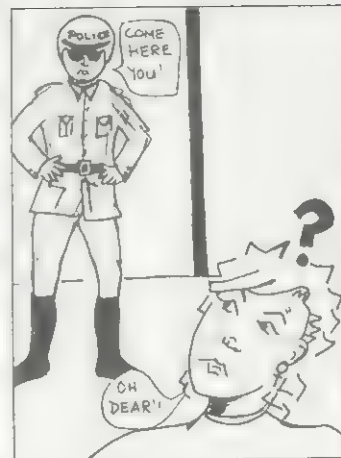
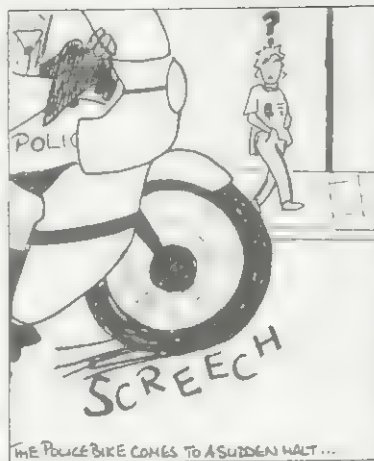
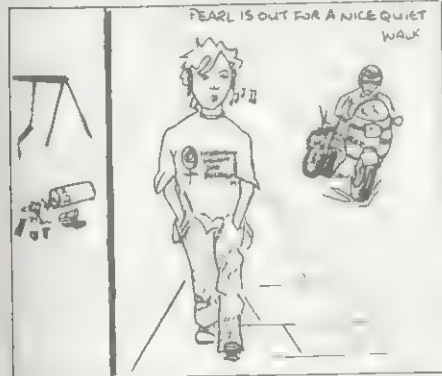
OR DOES SHE DETER YOU FROM GOING OUT
SOCIALLY?!!



SAPPHO WOMAN



SAPHROWOMAN



BUT JUST WHO IS THIS BIG, ROUGH, TOUGH POLICE WOMAN BIKER??

~

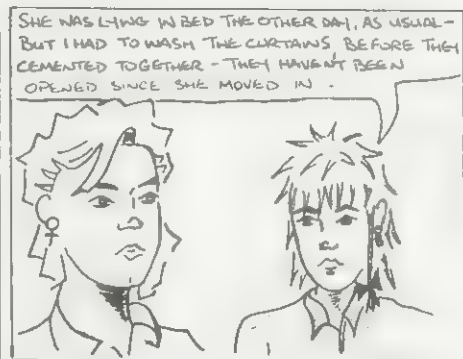
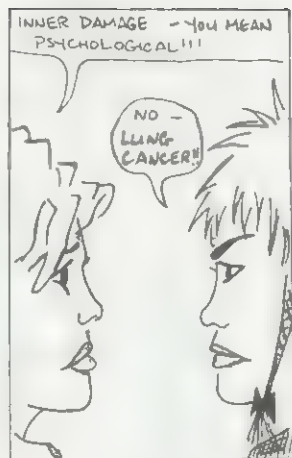


BERTHA -- DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN EVERYTIME I WEAR MY 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY' T-SHIRT??!!

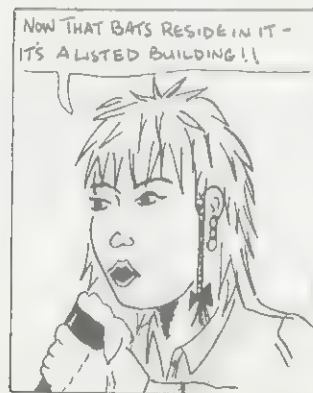


SAPHO ♀ W ♀ MAN









Viola NICEPOSIE in "A CARING PROFESSION!"

VIOLA NICEPOSE - NOT ONLY A VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE MONTHLY CYCLE COLLECTIVE - BUT ALSO A CUSTODIAN, DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT + ENLIGHTENMENT OF OUR HUMAN HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE, OUR CHILDREN - IN OTHER WORDS - VIOLA IS A TEACHER!

RELAX VIO, A HAVE
AGAIN + SOME VALIUM -
ONLY 2 MORE HOURS
TO GO!!

STATE
COMMON
ROOM

WHEN WILL THIS CRUEL WAR EVER END?

TEACH THE SUPPLIES

VIOLA FINDS IT ALL RATHER A STRUGGLE!

UNFORTUNATELY HER CHOSEN VACATION RENDERS LITTLE JOB -

BUT MISS - WE DON'T WANT SATISFACTION.
TO HOLD HANDS CROSSING THE ROAD! WHAT IF
SOMEONE QUESTIONS OUR SEXUALITY??

I WONDER WHAT
THE N.U.T'S POLICY
IS ON ACCIDENTAL
GASSING IN THE
SCHOOL LABS?
+ COULD I
PLEAD P.M.T?

THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE HARDENED, BAITING, CRUEL ATTITUDES OF TODAY'S YOUTH - + PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT VIOLA FINDS KIDS UNINSPIRING.

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE THINGS THESE KIDS CAN DO WITH NASAL MUCUS!

ART
ROOM

LOOK-A-WORKING
MODEL OF
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

MINES A MACRAME
POT PLANT HOLDER!

I'M CALLING
MINE + THE
CRIMINALS

WHATS



Miss, Miss - Look
AT MY WILDEBEEST

THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN ORGAN!!

+ THE CONSTANT NEED FOR ANONYMITY PLACES A TERRIBLE STRAIN UPON HER ALREADY PARANOID SHOULDERS!! EG - A TYPICAL RALLY ↓

FINANCIAL
SUPPORT
FOR OUR
MONTHLY
CYCLE

SUPPORT
OUR
MONTHLY
CYCLE

WE NEED
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT
NOW

JESUS, MARY + JOSEPH
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR FREE
TAMPAX NOW!!

EEC
OFFICIAL
OBSERVER
↓ ↓ ↓

MONTHLY
CYCLE

ONCE WE'RE ROUND THE
CORNER SHE'LL TAKE OFF
THE WIG SUNGLASSES +
MAYBE THE
BRA + LAVA!

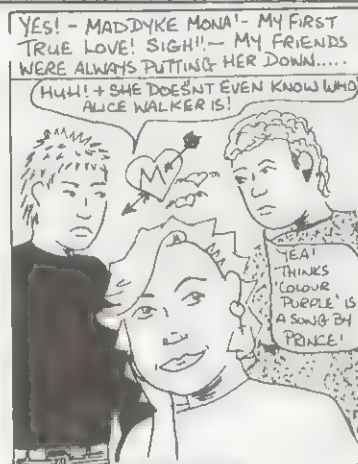
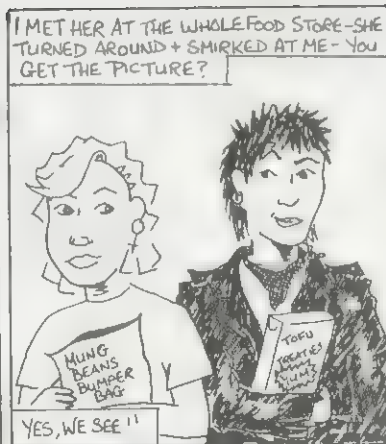
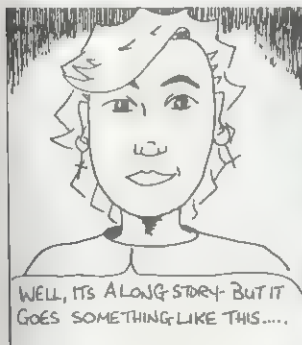
TAKE IT WE'RE
NEARING VIOLA'S
PLACE OF WORK!

LAST YEAR HER DISGUISE WAS SO GOOD
WE THOUGHT SHE WAS A COOK REPORT
SPY! WE NEARLY TARRED +
FEATHERED HER BEFORE WE
REALISED!

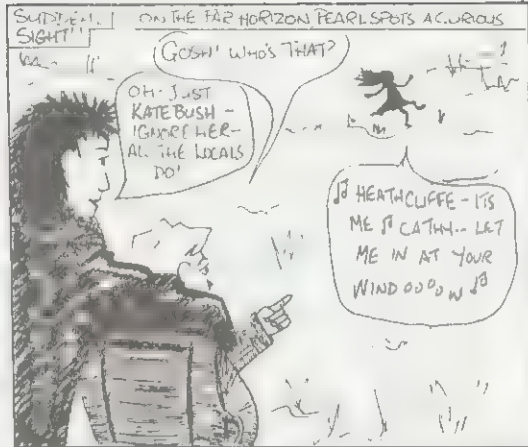
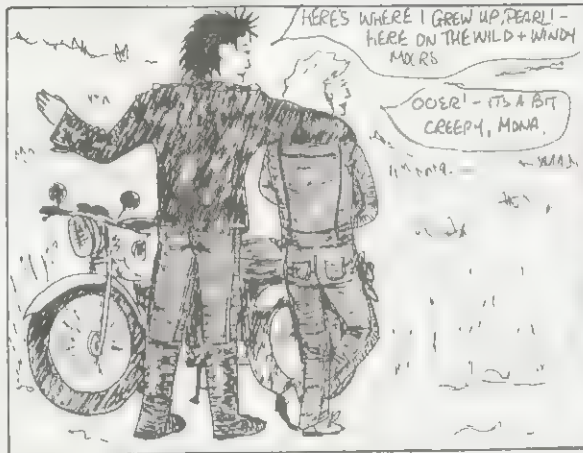
GALE 689

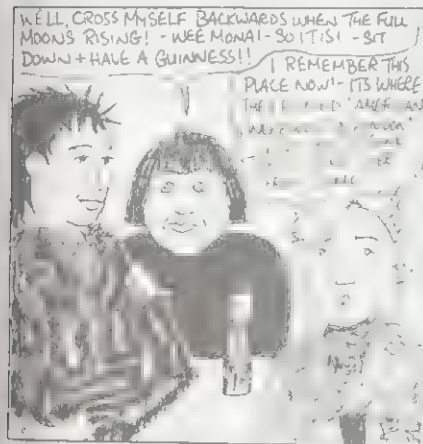
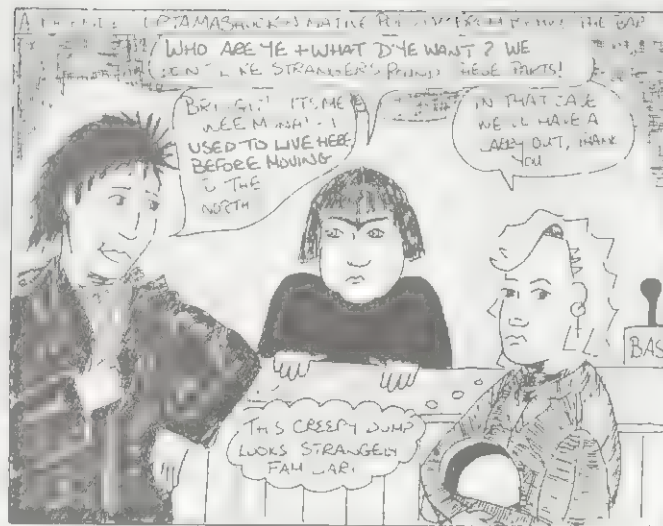
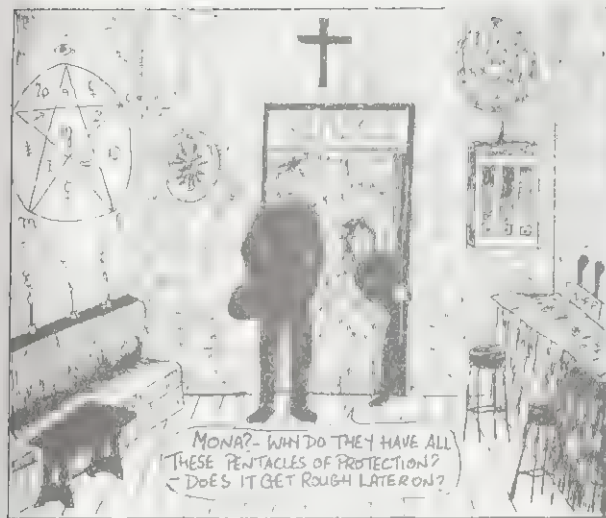
PEARL'S POWERS

JUST HOW DID PEARL GET HER POWERS?



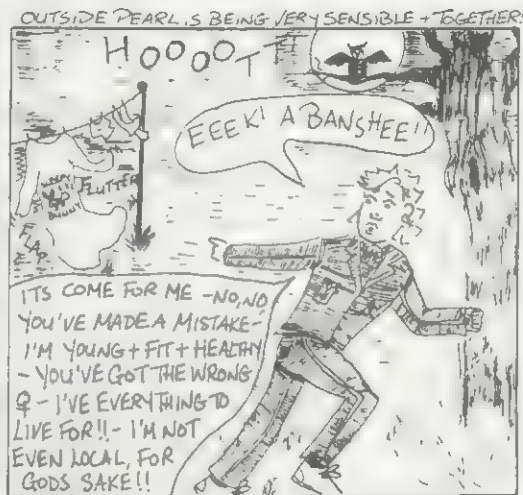
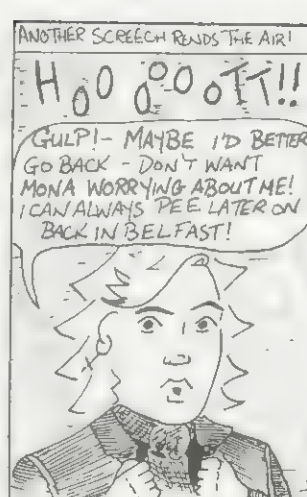
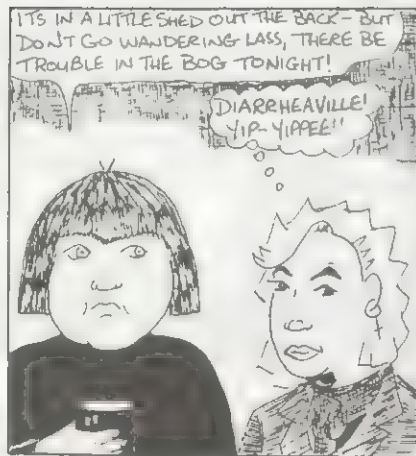
I KNEW IF WE WERE
EVER GOING TO MAKE
IT, WE'D HAVE TO
GET AWAY TOGETHER
FOR A WHILE - SO
MONA TOOK ME TO
HER MOST FABBY
PLACE EVER, FOR
THE WEEKEND....
UP! AMASHUCKIN'
BOG!DEEP IN
THE HEART OF
IRELAND!





PEARL IS SOON FORGOTTEN AS MONA + BRIDGIT CATCH UP ON LOCAL GOSSIP - LEFT UNATTENDED PEARL'S FEAR + UNEASE GROWS!!!





MEANWHILE... ON AN EVEN
WILDER, MORE DESOLATE
PART OF UPTAMASHUCKIN
BOG, THE LOCAL WITCHES
COVEN Bi-MONTHLY
PRO-ANTI-ANGLO-IRISH
AGREEMENT PROTEST
MEETING, IS IN PROGRESS
+ THEY'RE ABOUT TO RECEIVE
AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR....

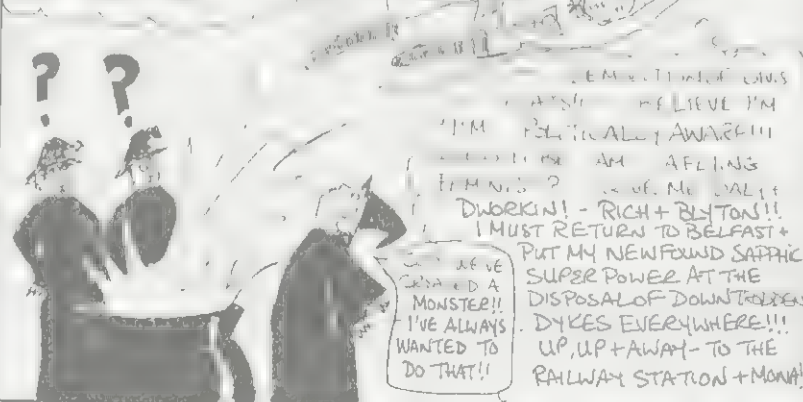


WE'LL GET HER OUT WE'LL
HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM
SCRATCH AT THE RATE THE
TOKES WILL BE IN ANOTHER TERM!



SUDDENLY -
FROM OUT OF
THE FRY BEEN
THIS A
SAPPHO -
WOMAN!!!

I FEEL STRANGE! SORT OF CONCERNED ABOUT - ABOUT -
WEST LONDON! THE HILL NEW! SOUTH AMERICA!
AFTER THE PROBABLY THE
YES THEN THE

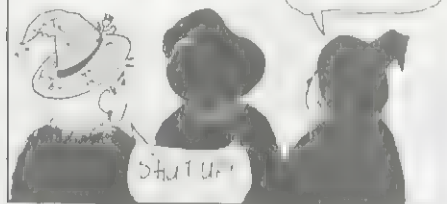


EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY!
I'M BELIEVE I'M
POLITICALLY AWARE!!!
I'M AFRAID
DURKIN! - RICH + BLITON!!
I MUST RETURN TO BELFAST +
PUT MY NEWFOUND SAPPIC
SUPER POWER AT THE
DISPOSAL OF DOWN TOWN
DYKES EVERYWHERE!!!
UP, UP + AWAY - TO THE
RAILWAY STATION + MONA!

WELL, MAYBE THAT
WILL DO THE TRICK!

SHE'S NOT EXACTLY
ANOTHER BERNADETTE
M'ALISKEY, IS SHE??!

WOULD IT HELP
IF I SAID SHE
LOOKED A LITTLE
LIKE RHONDA
PRISLEY ROUND
THE EYES?



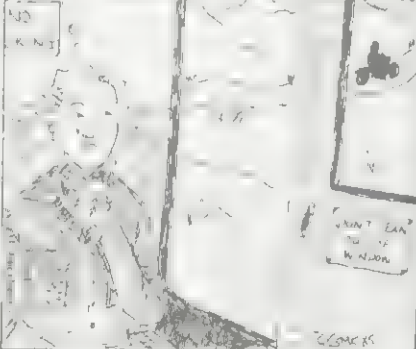
+ SO THE TIME CAME FOR PEARL TO SAY
ADIEU TO MADDYKE MONA, HER FIRST
TRUE LOVE! AFTER MONA M. F. S.



NOW BABE! NO SWAGGERS TREND
HERE ON THE WILD + WINDY BOG,
WHERE THERE'S A DEATH EVERY HOUR!
SO DON'T BE A VENTURE TIME
FARLOUR! WE'LL BE RICH!!

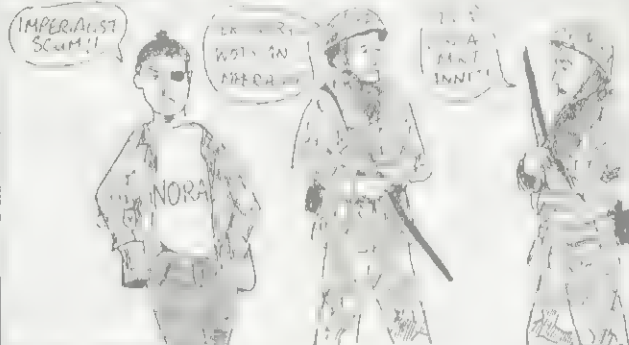
AS THE TRAIN PULLS OUT....

I'LL NEVER FORGET HER, MY LEADER
OF THE PACK! .. VROOM, VROOM! SNIP!

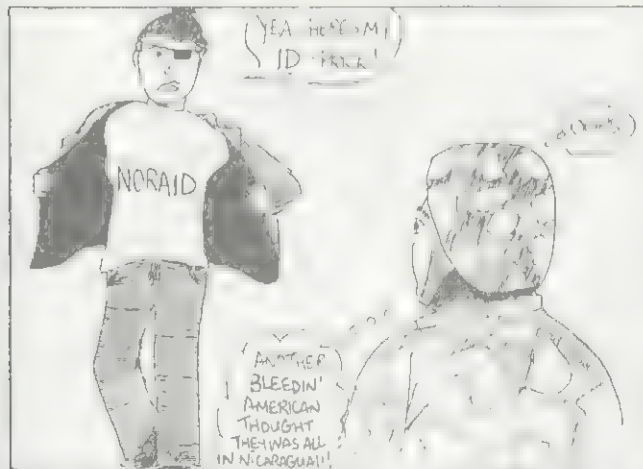


Milly Tent in... "BELFAST BLUES!!"

MILLY'S ON HER WAY TO THE STORES & SHE'S ASKING, "WHY IS MY MOTHER IN TALLAHASSEE? - SHE'S VERY CLOSE TO HER MOTHER!"



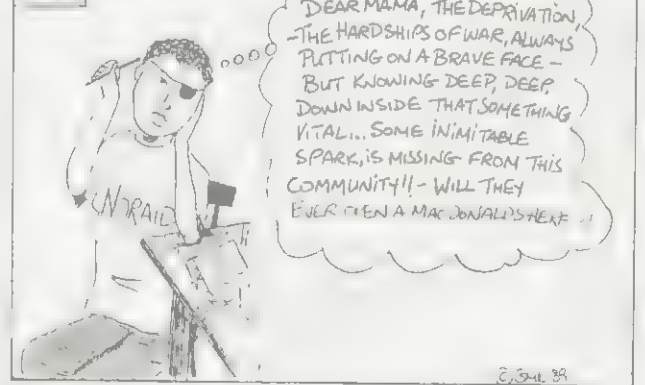
"SHE IS MOMENTARILY INCENSED BY THE PRESENCE OF TWO MEMBERS OF HER MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES ON THE PAVEMENT BEFORE HER!"



"MILLY'S STOPPED & HARASSED BY A FLIRTY, SEX STARVED, JUST LATE IN LIVES LITTLE GIRL!"

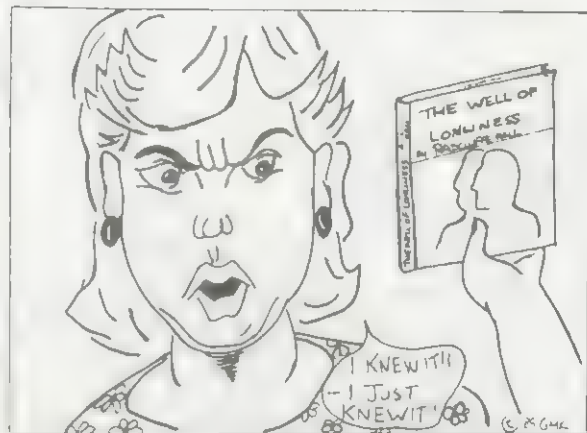
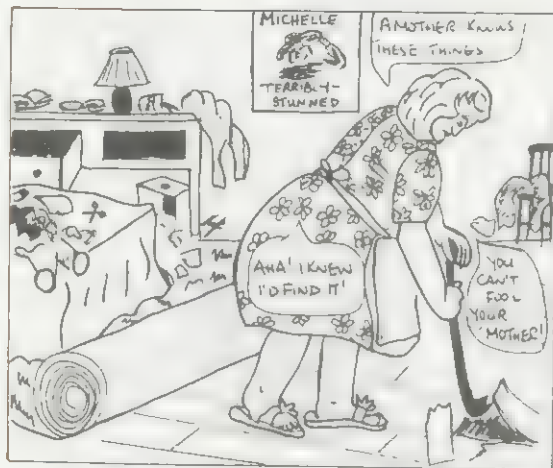


"IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIG DISAPPOINTMENT TO MILLY THAT BY THE TIME SHE ARRIVED ON THE WAR-TORN STREET OF BELFAST - THEY WERE ALREADY TORN THAT WAY - BUT SHE WRITES TO HER MOTHER ONCE A WEEK ANYWAY!"



E. S. 89

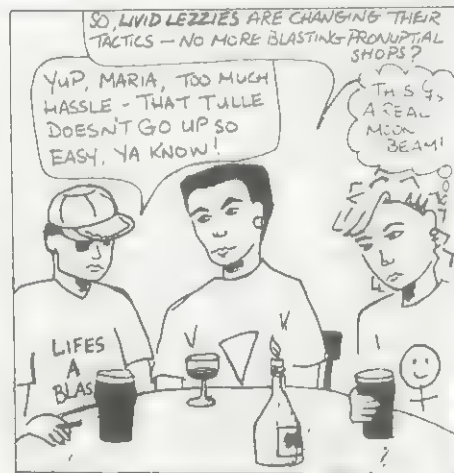
MOTHERS MANIC

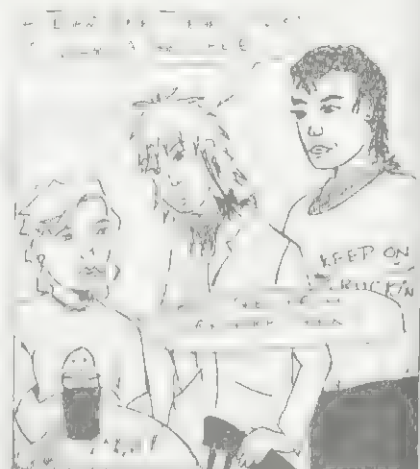
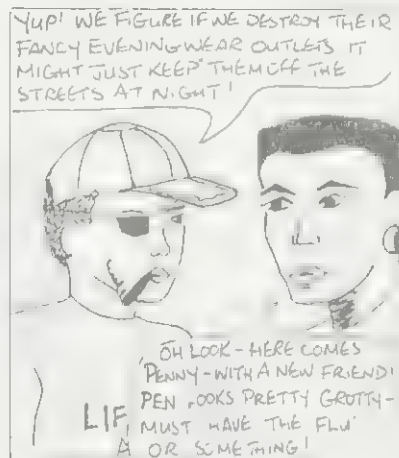
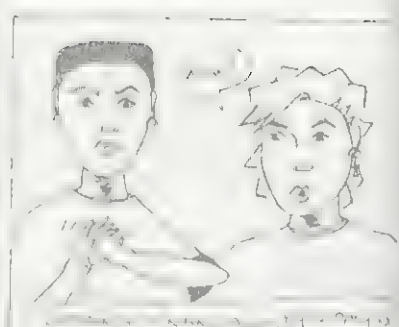
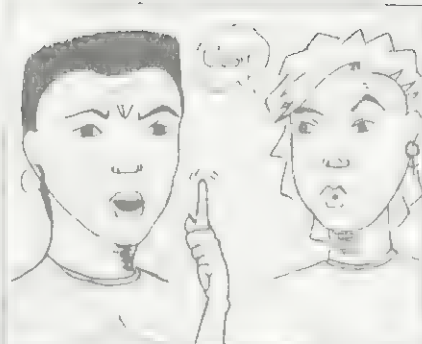
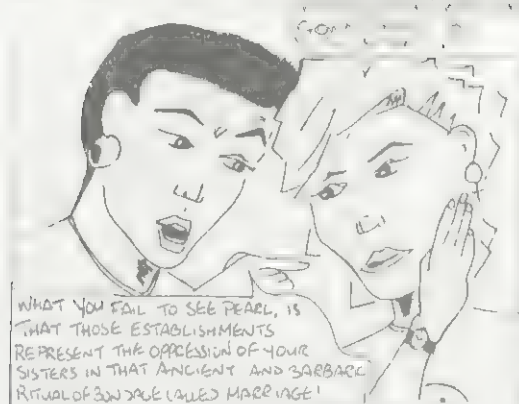


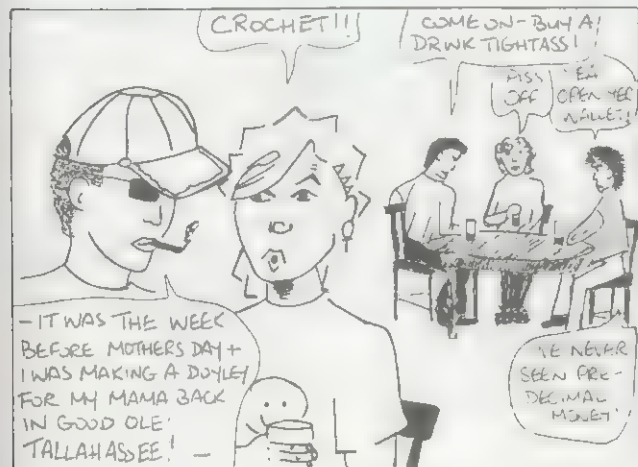
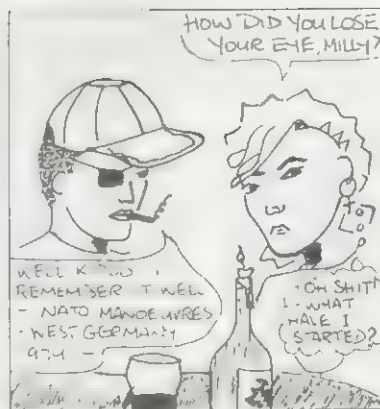
SAPHO ♀ W?MAN + A NIGHT ON THE TILES!!

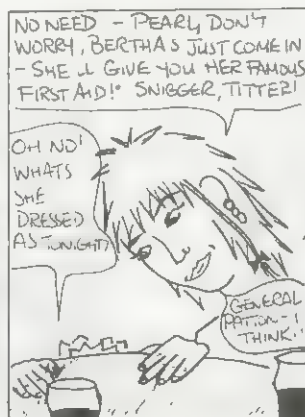


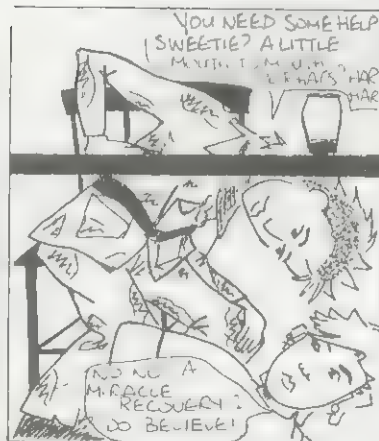
AND SO TO
THE LOCAL
♀ BAR
THE
HOODED
LADY!!

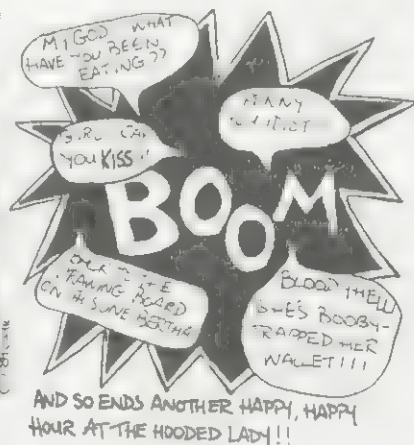
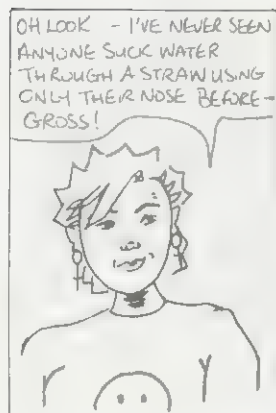








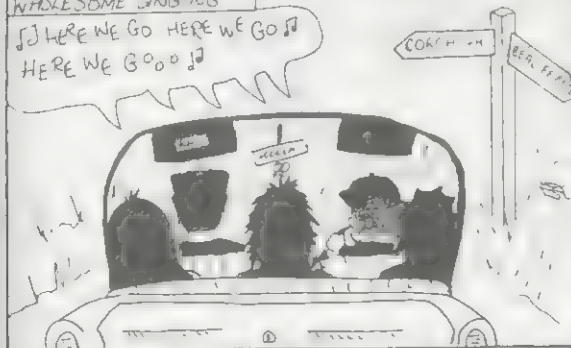




ON THE ROAD TO CORK!

A BRIGHT, BRISK, MAY MORNING + WE SEE OUR HEROINES SQUEEZED INTO MILLY'S OLD BANGER SET IT OUT ON ANOTHER GLORIOUS ADVENTURE WITH HAPPY LEAFIES + WHOLE SOME SINGING

♪ HERE WE GO HERE WE GO ♪
HERE WE GOO ♪



BUT WHY ARE THEY SO GAY? WHAT IS THE REASON FOR ALL THIS MERRIMENT??! COULD IT BE THE

CORK



FUN WEEKEND??

BUT WILL THEY EVER ARRIVE?!

STOP! CUSTOMS CHECK

ANYTHING TO DECLARE DARLIN'S?

YEA - YOU'RE UGLY!



CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARE NOT RENOWNED FOR THEIR HUMOUR!



+ SO A FEW HOURS LATER -
♪ HERE WE GO ♪
AGAIN....
OR DO WE?



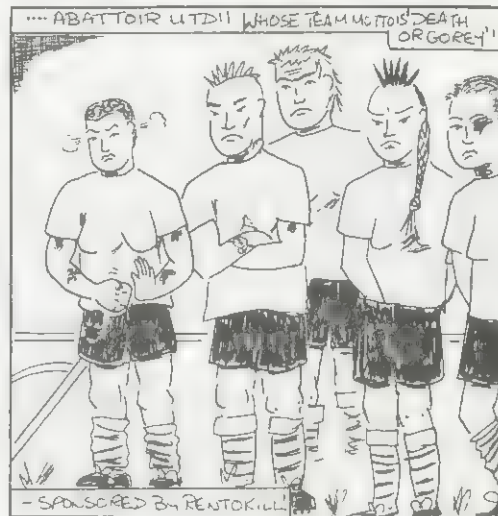
AT LAST THEY ARRIVE IN CORK'S FAIR CITY, WHERE THE LAKES ARE SO PRETTY + IT'S PART TIME!! - LETS PLAY SPOT THE WALL FLOWER!!

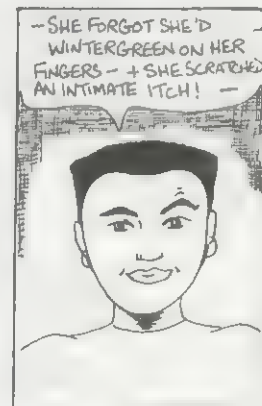
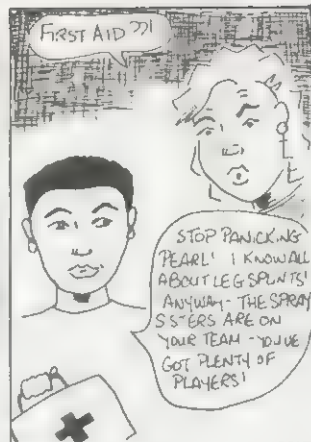


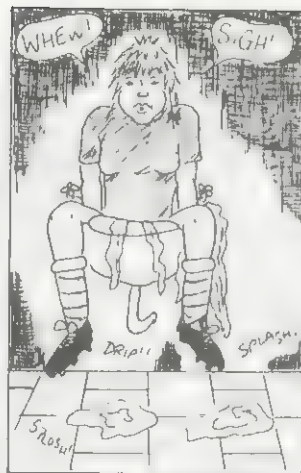
THE NEXT DAY DAWNS BRIGHT + CLEAR - UNLIKE OUR HEROINES HEADS!! - AND SO TO MARDYKE PARK WHERE A FRIENDLY GAME OF FOOTBALL IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE. HERE WE SEE THE BELFAST GGS VS. THE REST OF THE WORLD! (WELL ITS ONLY FAIR!!) THE AIR IS FILLED WITH EXCITED ANTICIPATION + WARM SMILES!!



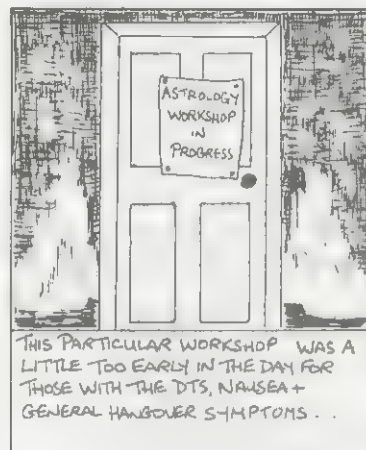
VS.







AND THEN
THERE WERE
THE
WORKSHOPS



M.M. + Viola... "GO FOR A PINT!!!"



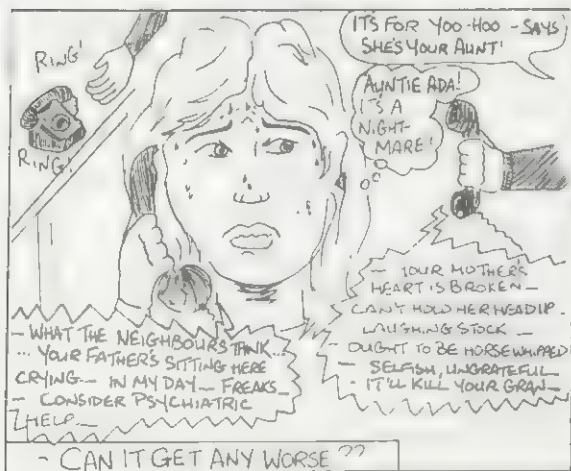
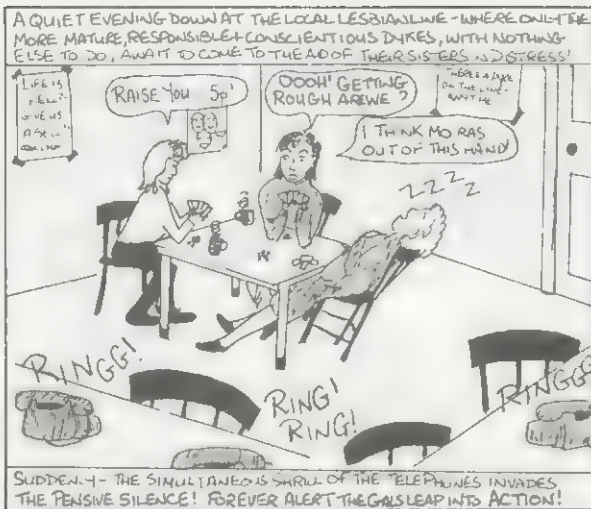
MM'S ELOQUENT FERVOUR HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY SEVERAL LONG, COOL PINTS - VIOLA'S PARANOIA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ENHANCED TOO!

SO YOU'RE A DJKE - WHAT'S TO BE ASHAMED OF? - THIS IS THE 1990'S - BE STRONG, LIKE ME....

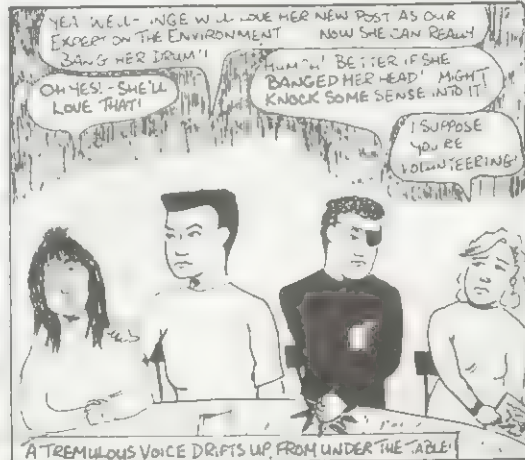
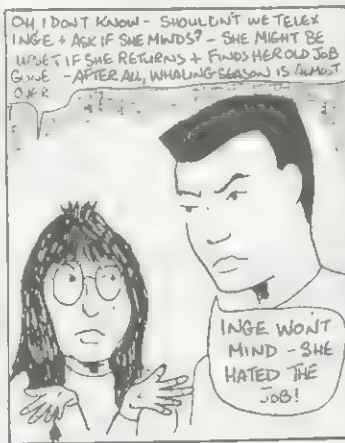
SSSSSH!!

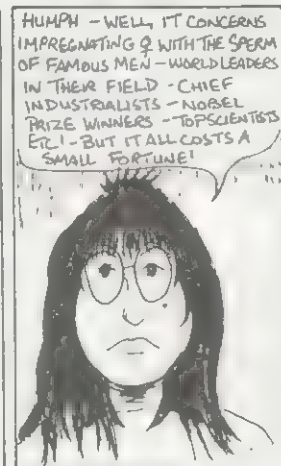
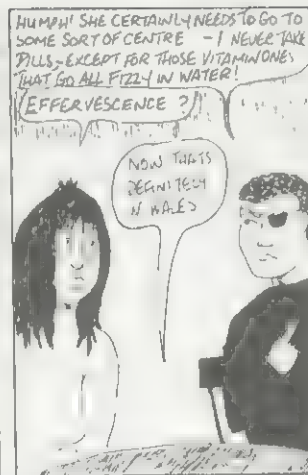


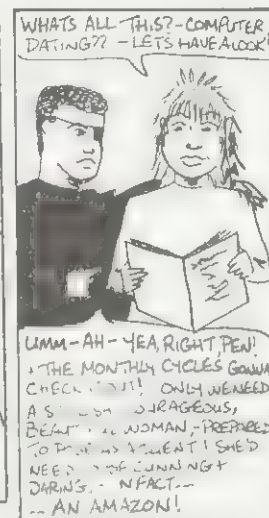
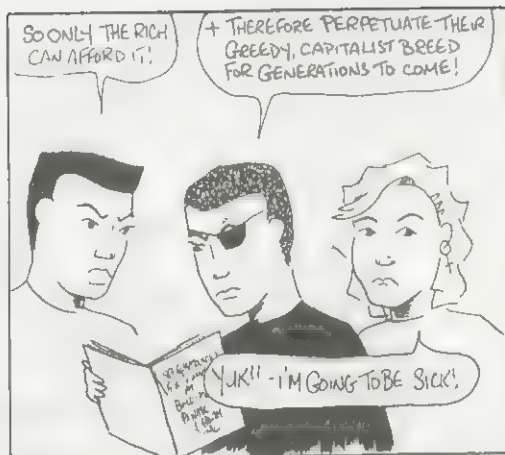
MANIC MOTHERS



SAPPHO ♀ WOMAN + 'THE GREAT SPERM BANK RAID!!'

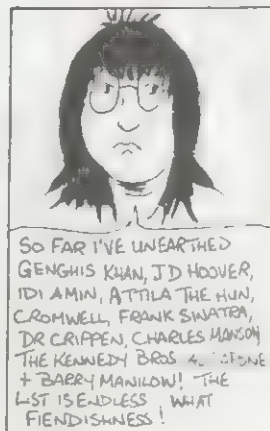
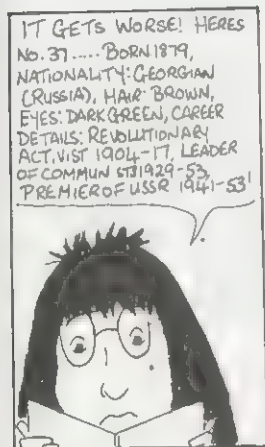


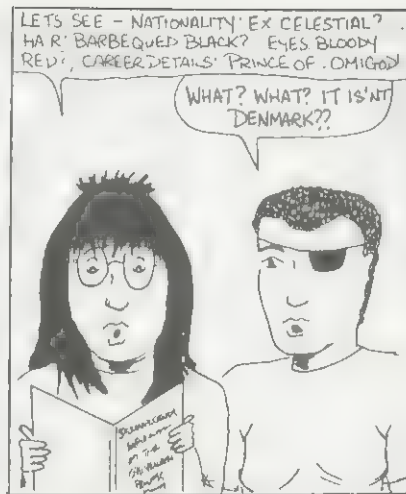






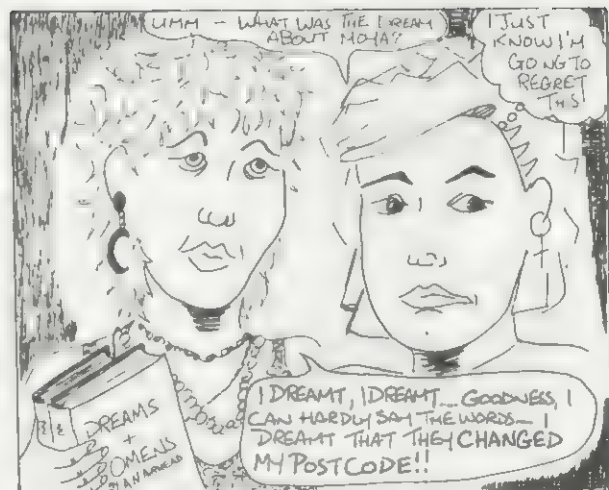






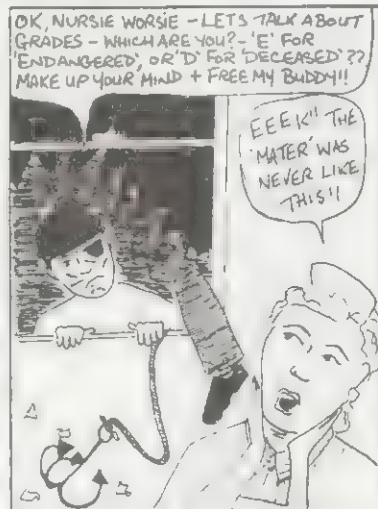
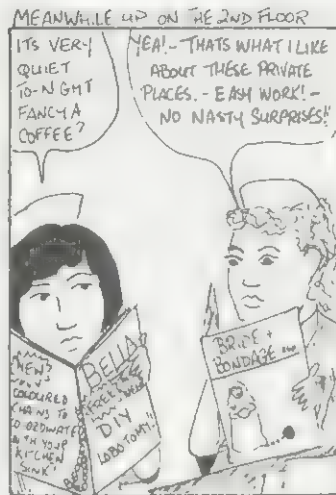
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO PENNY? WILL
SHE BE RESCUED? CAN HER FRIENDS
REACH HER IN TIME? WILL THE
CLINIC STILL GET 5 STARS IN PENNY'S
ARTICLE? IS COMATOSE REALLY
RECOMMENDED BY THE GREEK
TOURIST BOARD? + WILL PEARL END
UP WITH 'DISHMOP' HANDS? THESE
QUESTIONS + MANY MORE ARE
COMPLETELY IGNORED IN PART
TWO OF THIS STORY....
PENNY IN PERIL!!!

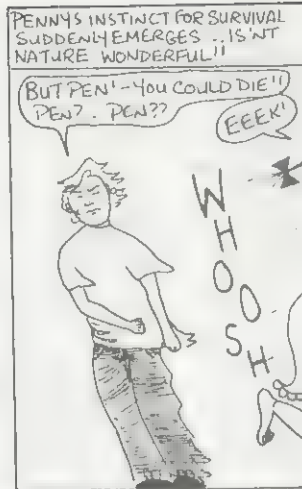
MOYAS DREAM!



SAPPHO ♀ WOMAN + PENNY IN PERIL!!







BUT PENNY'S FEARS ARE UNFOUNDED?



THEY FLEE THROUGH THE STREETS OF BELFAST



THEY NIP THROUGH BLACKSTAFF SQUARE



JUST AS THEY CLAMBER ONTO THE BENCH, PC SCUM ARRIVES!!



'DON'T MOVE AN INCH!'





THE END -
OR IS IT???

IS PENNY POSSESSED?

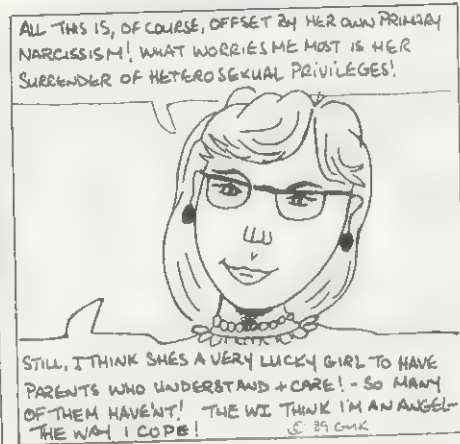
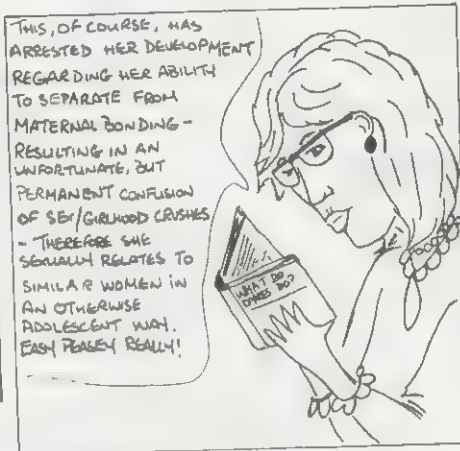
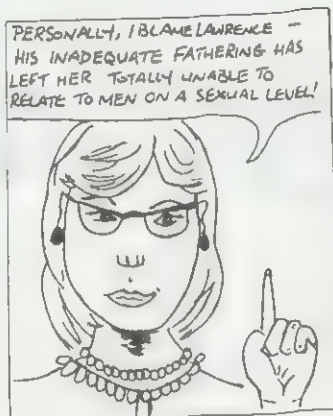
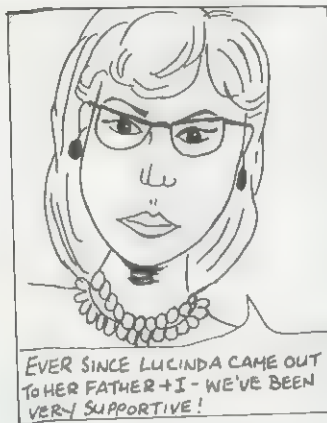
WHY WOULD A VEGETARIAN WANT FOR RAW NUNS LIVER?

DOES SHE CARRY SATAN'S SEED?? - IS SHE A DEVIL P&D?

WILL SHE + LUCRETIA GET TOGETHER NOW THEY HAVE MORE IN COMMON?? - + WHERE WOULD THEY FIND A VIRGIN ANYWAY???

YES!! - THERES **MORE!!!**

MANIC MOTHERS

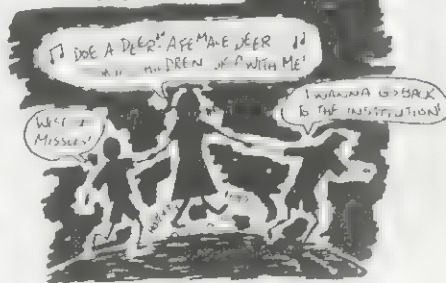


'PENNY POSSESSED!!'

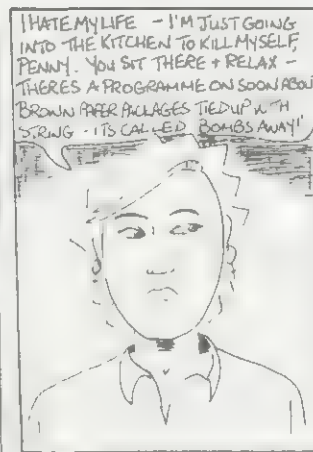
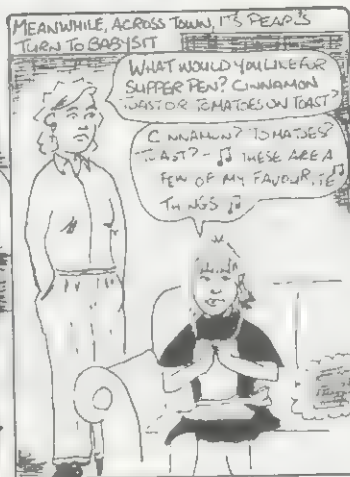
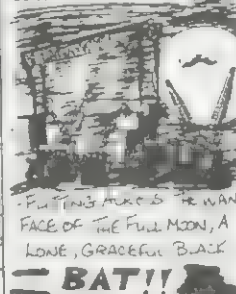


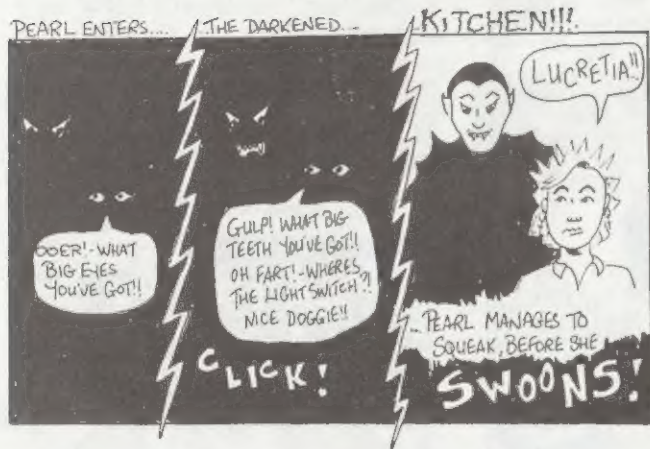


THE NEW PENNY HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT AT THE LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOME IN HER SPARE TIME, BETWEEN BAKING BATCHES OF FUDGE + TEACHING BUDGIES TO SING DOWN AT THE 'HELP THE AGED' CENTRE!



THAT EVENING... A COLD WIND SWIRLS IN FROM THE EAST AS DARKNESS FALLS SUDDENLY, AS THE LAST RAYS OF THE SETTING SUN PERISH -









At last, what we've all been waiting for A dangerous, daring and hilarious glimpse into Belfast lesbian life. Fly into fantasy with Sapphowoman and the Greater Belfast Dykes. Follow the fortunes of the Monthly Cycle Collective and enjoy the crack in this original, controversial and outrageous collection. Meet Sapphowoman –

Heroine



Ace cub Reporter



Love-lorn Lesbian



Price £3.95 IR £5.00
ISBN 1 872139 01 9

MEADBH PUBLISHING

